

Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill.

President.—The first Bill stands in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew.

As the Member was absent, the motion to introduce the Bill was considered withdrawn.

Cochin Thiyya Bill.

President.—The next Bill stands in the name of Mr. K. Ayyappan. He will introduce his Cochin Thiyya Bill.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I move that the Cochin Thiyya Bill be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—May I say one word in regard to that? It is a Bill affecting a vast community of the land. And all the members of the community are not going to be affected by this measure. They are governed by different rules, so far as the northern and southern parts are concerned. I, therefore, think that it will be proper to know the sense of the community before the Bill is taken up by this Council. Therefore, I would request for the postponement of this Bill to ascertain the views of the community in general on this particular Bill. I would like to know whether the Hon'ble Member has any objection to have the sense of the community ascertained before the Bill is introduced for the consideration of this House.

President.—What is your position? Have you ascertained the views of the community whom the Bill is going to affect? Had you any opportunity of knowing it?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It is only after the introduction of the Bill that it will be published in the Government Gazette.

President.—It is always a practice in British Legislative Councils to have a motion for circulation in such cases. But we have not got it in our Standing Orders. But in the amendments to our Standing Orders we are considering it. It is always safe. For instance, in a Bill that was introduced by Mr. V. D. Ouseph and in the case of Mr. Kannan Nayar's Child Marriage Restraint Bill, the Government have come to the conclusion that these are measures in which the sense of the community has to be ascertained. It will not be proper on the part of the Government to take a neutral attitude in such cases. The Government has also got a responsibility to see how the wishes of the people are and then assume an attitude. So, if these Bills were to come, similarly I would remind you about the postponement for obtaining the sense of the community. Unfortunately those